

- 11 -

CLAIMS:

1. A method of scheduling a transaction request to a central processing unit in a computing system,
5 comprising the steps of,
 - for a transaction request, polling at least one central processing unit to determine the current load on the at least one central processing unit;
 - 10 - if the current load is below a predetermined threshold, allocating the transaction request to one of the at least one central processing unit; or
 - 15 - if the current load is above the predetermined threshold, delaying execution of the transaction request for a predetermined time delay, or until polling determines that the load is below the predetermined threshold.
2. A method in accordance with claim 1, comprising the further step of polling at defined time intervals to
20 determine the system load.
3. A method in accordance with claim 2, wherein polling continues until the current load drops below the predetermined threshold, at which time the transaction request is allocated.
- 25 4. A method in accordance with claim 3, wherein the predetermined threshold is achieved when the at least one of a plurality of CPU's becomes idle.
5. A method in accordance with claim 4, wherein the predetermined time delay is chosen such that an end user
30 cannot determine any perceptible change in response time.
6. A method in accordance with claim 5, wherein the predetermined time delay does not exceed 500 milliseconds.
- 35 7. A method in accordance with claim 5, wherein the predetermined time delay is in the order of one to fifteen time slice intervals.

- 12 -

8. A system for scheduling an incoming transaction to a central processing unit in a computing system, comprising:
- polling means arranged to, on receipt of a transaction request, poll at least once central processing unit to obtain a value for the central processing unit load,
 - comparison means arranged to, if the current load is below a predetermined threshold, allocate the transaction request to one of the at least one central processing unit,
 - if the current load is above the predetermined threshold, delay execution of the transaction request for a predetermined time period.
9. A system in accordance with claim 8, wherein the polling means is arranged to continue to poll at defined time intervals to determine the system load.
10. A system in accordance with claim 9, comprising allocation means which is arranged to allocate the transaction when the comparison means determines that the current load has dropped below the predetermined threshold.
11. A system in accordance with claim 10, wherein the predetermined threshold is achieved when the at least one of a plurality of CPU's becomes idle.
12. A system in accordance with claim 11, wherein the predetermined time delay is chosen such that an end user cannot determine any perceptible change in response time.
13. A system in accordance with claim 12, wherein the predetermined time delay does not exceed 500 milliseconds.
14. A system in accordance with claim 12, wherein the predetermined time delay is in the order of one to fifteen time slice intervals.
15. A computer program arranged, when loaded on a computing system, to implement the method of any one of

- 13 -

claims 1 to 6.

16. A computer readable medium providing a computer program in accordance with claim 15.